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Growth of Lawn Tennis in California

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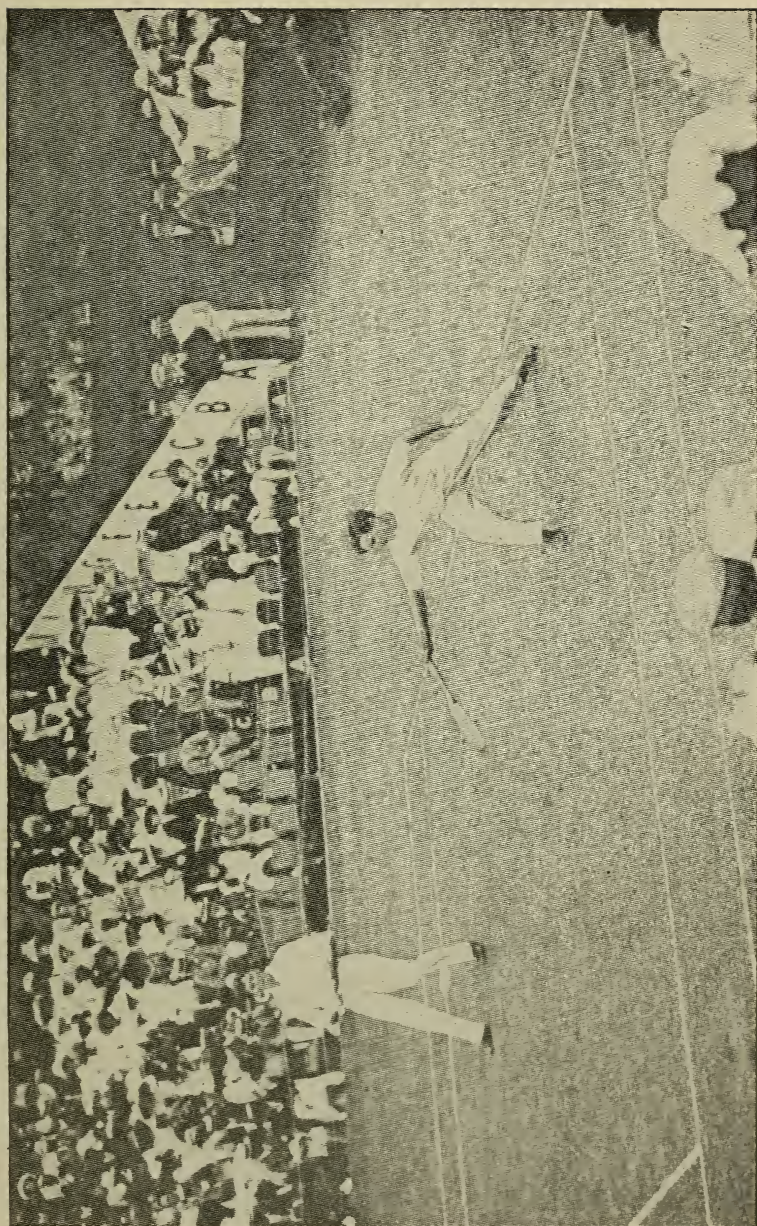
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MAURICE E. McLOUGHLIN and THOMAS C. BUNDY
National Double Champions—1912
Championship Court, Newport, R. I.

GROWTH OF LAWN TENNIS IN CALIFORNIA

ON this the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the Pacific States Lawn Tennis Association, we are pleased to place before the Lawn Tennis players and other lovers of the game in California a short sketch of the growth of the sport in this state, compiled from records in our possession, and pictures of the champions during the past quarter of a century.

The period prior to 1889 during which Lawn Tennis, transplanted from the East by enthusiasts who came to the Golden Gate to dwell and brought their favorite pastimes with them, may be passed over lightly, for the game went through an uneventful infancy, and for the first decade following the formation of the Pacific States Lawn Tennis Association in that year by a few enthusiastic players, the growth of the game, although rapid and consistent was not marked by any epoch making events. Clubs and tournaments increased rapidly and a strong rivalry began to spring up between the northern and southern portions of the State, which in itself gave an incentive to the players of these two sections to increase their efficiency.

The chief drawback which prevented the experts of that period from becoming stars of the first magnitude was the fact that the competition was almost exclusively intrastate, and there was next to no opportunity for the leading players of the far west to measure their skill with that of the cracks of the east where the game had

naturally advanced further, or with those of other countries.

To be sure several forerunners to the all conquering Miss May Sutton did visit the east during this period and with most creditable results. Thus, in 1892, it was visited by Charles P. Hubbard, who, although not quite good enough to defeat the best players of that section, nevertheless obtained a ranking of No. 10.

It is safe to say that the year 1898, just ten years after the formation of the Association, marked the real turning point for the game, not in California alone, but in the whole Pacific Coast. That was the season that a team composed of four of the leading players of the east,—probably the most representative that has ever in any country made such a trip—toured the far west demonstrating in many tournaments their own skill and the possibilities of the game. This history making invasion was brought about as a result of the forethought and planning of Mr. George Wright, whose friendship for several of the leading players in both sections of California made him anxious to see the game develop in this state along the best lines.

This unusual team was composed of no less players than Malcolm D. Whitman, then Singles Champion of the United States, Holcombe Ward, and Dwight Davis (the latter later the donor of the World famous trophy which bears his name) National Doubles Champions, and Beals C. Wright, National Interscholastic Champion, four stars of the first magnitude, all of whom won fame both in National and International competition.

They reached California during the height of the season month, September, and a Round Robin was ar-



FIRST EASTERN TEAM TO VISIT CALIFORNIA, SEASON OF 1898.
(left to right)

MALCOLM D. WHITMAN, BEALS C. WRIGHT, DWIGHT DAVIS, HOLCOMBE WARD,
GEO. WRIGHT, SUMNER HARDY, SAMUEL HARDY, ROBERT WHITNEY, GEO F. WHITNEY

ranged at Del Monte as being the most desirable place, in which they were to meet the state's strongest players,—who were then Sumner and Samuel Hardy, and George and Robert Whitney,—both in Single and Doubles competition. A week of practice was given, to allow them to accustom themselves to the new climatic and court conditions, for it must be remembered that the usual asphalt playing surface of the far west differs materially from the turf courts of the east, as the Pacific Coast stars who visit the latter section of the country can testify. Whether a player wears spikes or not on turf he becomes accustomed to the slight give or resiliency which is wholly absent on asphalt, and the balls “shoot” much more rapidly from the latter surface beside becoming lighter as the felt covering wears off (instead of heavier as they do on grass) which causes them to curve and duck more, and necessitates a sharper volleying game.

The visiting stars quickly accustomed themselves to the climate and conditions, although Davis, who is very heavy and aggressive, succeeded in wearing through three pairs of sneakers in one week's play.

The following extract taken from Wright & Ditson's Official Guide gives results of matches played—

Trip of Eastern Champions to the Pacific Coast.

“At the end of the Tournament at Newport it was arranged that four of the Eastern players should make a trip to the Pacific Coast and to the Northwest. The four were Whitman, Ward, Davis and Wright. It had been intended that Larned should go, but he was unable to do so.

Five different tournaments were played—at Del Monte, Portland, Seattle, Tacoma, and Victoria, B. C. In the first named they met the two Hardys and the two Whitneys, each player of one team to play every player of the other. Sumner Hardy proved too good for Ward, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, and for Wright 7-5, 6-2, 6-3. All the other matches in Singles were won by the Eastern team. In the Doubles, however, the Hardys beat Whitman and Wright in the straight sets, and Whitman and Wright had already beaten Davis and Ward in three sets—rather a curious upset. The Whitneys made little show against Whitman and Wright. It should be said that Sumner Hardy got two sets in his match with Davis and one from Whitman, making both play their best tennis.”

The Doubles tournament which was won by the Hardy brothers demonstrated the splendid sportsmanship of the California players, for the management of the tournament, even though they felt that their visitors were likely to outclass their home players and annex the event, insisted upon their participating in the Doubles, and none were more insistent on this point than Messrs. Sumner and Samuel Hardy, the title holders, although a win for them meant the permanent possession of the challenge cups upon which they had two legs.

During the course of these tournaments the visiting team was royally entertained, and indeed throughout the whole of the trip luncheons and dinners were tendered them by the various clubs in every city which they visited and they returned home feeling that the trip was a most memorable and enjoyable one and that their entertainment both on and off the court spoke volumes for the

thorough sportsmanship of their western hosts. After leaving Del Monte the team visited Portland, Seattle, Tacoma, Vancouver and Victoria, finding especially good grass courts in the last mentioned city. Every match in the north was won by the visitors, but they left feeling that without a doubt California had the foundation for a great tennis future and that all that was needed was practice and a more varied experience.

In the San Francisco Examiner of Sept. 8th, 1898, Mr. George Wright's personal views of the California style of play appeared as follows:—

“After watching the different matches between the Coast and Eastern champions, I would say that the two styles of play vary in the greater variety of strokes, in the way of lobbing, smashing, fore and back hand play and twist service employed by Easterners.

Your players hold themselves principally to cross and back court play at a medium pace. This they do very well. I can fully understand why they have not developed all the strokes mentioned above. They have not had opportunities to play against players of different styles, as our men have, nor have they the number of tournaments to play in.

They have been too much confined to playing with each other, as is shown by the fact that they all play nearly the same style, while each of the Eastern men has a particular style of his own.”

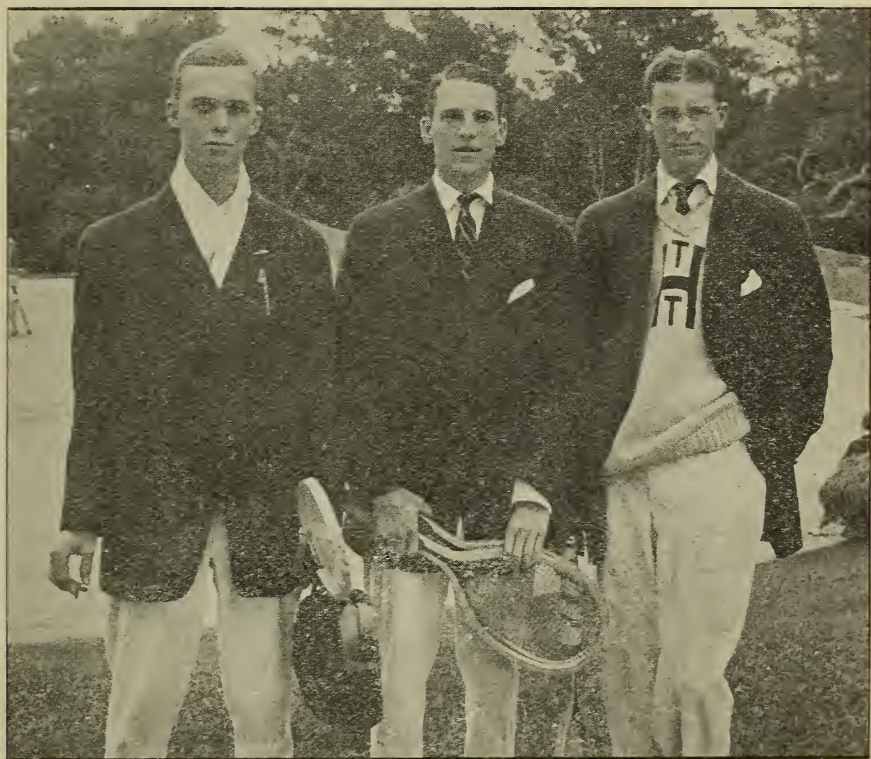
As has been said, this trip served as a turning point for Lawn Tennis in California, the enthusiasm and incentive aroused by the visit of the Eastern men resulting in renewed effort by the leading players. The number of

players and tournaments increased, and as a result of this and the interest shown by the city authorities in building courts in Golden Gate Park for the school boys, the general standard of play was persistently raised. In 1900 the Hardy Brothers visited the East, and three years later another leading player, A. E. Bell, but their trips, in spite of the excellence of their play, indicated that the standard was not yet as high in the far West as in the East.

In 1904, however, came the triumphal conquest of the wonderful Miss May Sutton (now Mrs. Thomas C. Bundy) which proved to the astonished world that whatever the standard of play among the men, California stood alone among players of the fair sex. Not only did she win the National Championship and many other important events with ease, but the following year visited England and had the honor of winning the coveted English Championship, which the English Association calls the "Championship of the World."

California's leading place in American Lawn Tennis, at least where "mere man" is concerned, was not so quickly attained, however, and in fact it took another Eastern invasion to show the Californians their real power and convince the association that it was high time for the two rival sections of the state to join forces and send a representative team to the East for the National tournament.

In 1908, by invitation of the Pacific States Lawn Tennis Association, a team made up of N. W. Niles, Wallace F. Johnson and Irving C. Wright, all being ranked at various times among the ten first players of the Country, visited California and competed in the Championship held at Del Monte, in which all of them were defeated both in Singles and Doubles before the Challenge round.



SECOND EASTERN TEAM TO VISIT CALIFORNIA, SEASON OF 1908
WALLACE F. JOHNSON IRVING C. WRIGHT NATHANIEL W. NILES

Without doubt the success of the young Californian players against this second team of eastern experts encouraged the far west to send on the following year, 1909, five of its leading players, McLoughlin, Janes, Long, Bundy, and Sinsabaugh, the first named pair being the team which had won the Pacific Coast Doubles that year. They stopped at Chicago and won the National Preliminary Doubles tie, over the representatives of the East, West and South, which entitled them to contend for the National Championship at Newport. Although defeated there they gained a ranking of second among the National Doubles teams; and the invaders received the following rank in Singles:—McLoughlin, 6th; Long, 7th; Bundy, 12th; and Janes, 28th. Their record was so creditable that the California Association sent three of the same players, McLoughlin, Long and Bundy East again in 1910, and T. Hendricks, who with Bundy had won the Pacific States doubles, accompanied them, and once again the California Team won the National Preliminary Doubles, though losing the Challenge match. Thomas Bundy did finely in the Singles, winning the National "All Comers" and being ranked 2nd; McLoughlin, 4th; Long, 5th, and Hendricks 39th.

In 1911 the first three again made the trip East, but this time the Doubles, Team, Bundy and McLoughlin, were defeated in the preliminaries by Little and Touchard; but all gained higher honors in Singles, McLoughlin winning the "All Comers," duplicating Bundy's success of the year before. He was ranked No. 2, Bundy 3rd and Long 5th.

California's repeated assaults on the Championships culminated last year in the wonderful record of eight

National Championship titles out of fourteen being captured, Maurice E. McLoughlin winning the Singles, and with Thomas C. Bundy the Doubles; Miss Mary K. Browne, Women's Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles; Clifton B. Herd, the National Interscholastic Championship, and Miss May Sutton the Clay Court Women's Singles and Mixed Doubles. The two first named players, and Long as well, have been selected at different times to play on "Davis Cup" teams.

McLoughlin's individual record for the year, which consisted of winning five important Championships in Singles and four Double events, and several of minor importance without a defeat, is a feat perhaps never equalled in American Tennis, certainly not since the days of Malcolm Whitman's triumphal march to the Championship.

Pacific States—Played in California

SINGLES CHAMPION

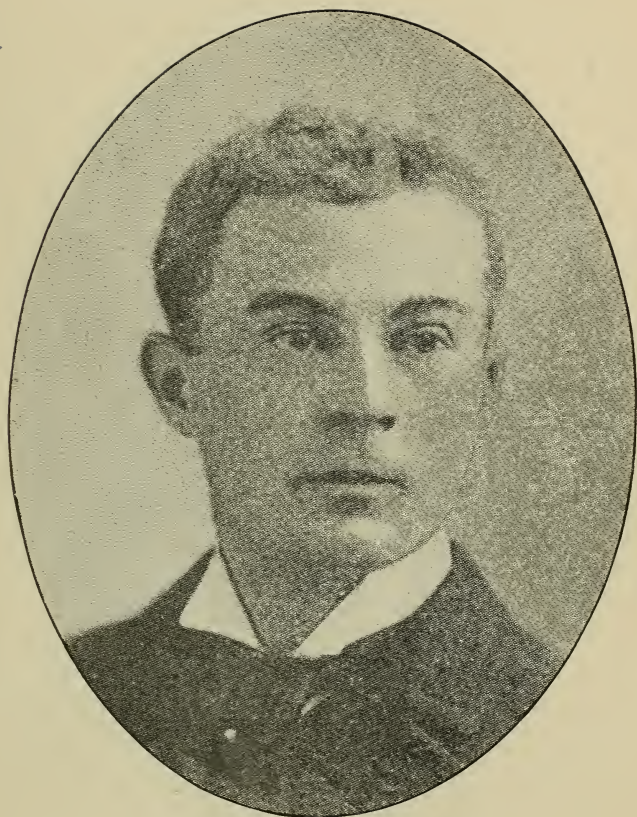
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|------|-------------------|
| 1889 | W. H. Taylor, Jr. |
| 1890 | W. H. Taylor, Jr. |
| 1891 | W. H. Taylor, Jr. |
| 1892 | W. H. Taylor, Jr. |
| 1893 | T. A. Driscoll |
| 1894 | Samuel Hardy |
| 1895 | Sumner Hardy |
| 1896 | Samuel Hardy |
| 1897 | G. F. Whitney |
| 1898 | Sumner Hardy |
| 1899 | G. F. Whitney |
| 1900 | G. F. Whitney |
| 1901 | G. F. Whitney |
| 1902 | L. R. Freeman |
| 1903 | A. E. Bell |
| 1904 | D. MacGavin |
| 1905 | Geo. J. Jones |
| 1906 | M. H. Long |
| 1907 | M. E. McLoughlin |
| 1908 | M. H. Long |
| 1909 | Geo. J. Jones |
| 1910 | M. H. Long |
| 1911 | M. E. McLoughlin |
| 1912 | M. E. McLoughlin |

RUNNER UP

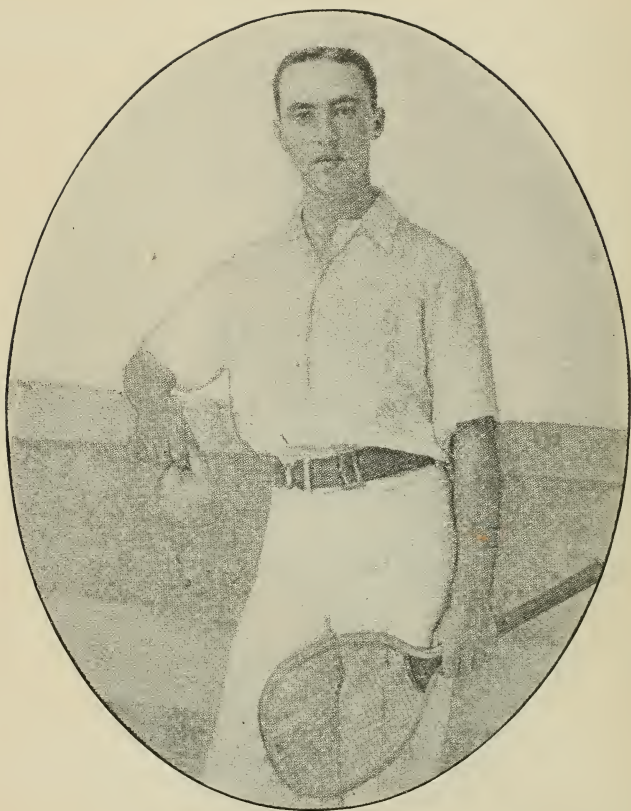
| |
|-------------------|
| W. H. Taylor, Jr. |
| C. R. Gates |
| C. P. Hubbard |
| C. P. Hubbard |
| T. A. Driscoll |
| Samuel Hardy |
| Sumner Hardy |
| Samuel Hardy |
| G. F. Whitney |
| Sumner Hardy |
| G. F. Whitney |
| Sumner Hardy |
| A. E. Bell |
| L. R. Freeman |
| A. E. Bell |
| D. MacGavin |
| Geo. J. Jones |
| M. H. Long |
| M. E. McLoughlin |
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| M. H. Long |
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| M. E. McLoughlin |

DOUBLES CHAMPIONS

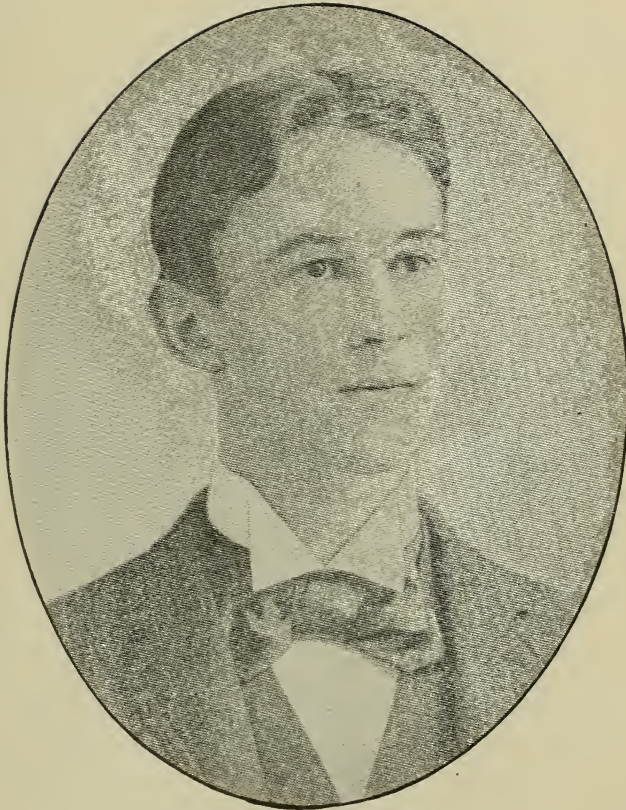
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|------------------------------------|
| Walter McGavin and Joseph S. Tobin |
| C. P. Hubbard and H. H. Haight |
| Sumner and Samuel Hardy |
| Sumner and Samuel Hardy |
| A. T. Driscoll and G. B. DeLong |
| Sumner and Samuel Hardy |
| G. F. and R. N. Whitney |
| Sumner and Samuel Hardy |
| Sumner and Samuel Hardy |
| Sumner and Samuel Hardy |
| G. F. and R. N. Whitney |
| G. F. and R. N. Whitney |
| L. R. Freeman and A. E. Bell |
| L. R. Freeman and A. E. Bell |
| George Baker and W. Allen |
| Sinsabaugh and Braly |
| Foley and Adams |
| Geo. J. Jones and McLoughlin |
| Geo. J. Jones and McLoughlin |
| Janes and McLoughlin |
| Bundy and Hendrick |
| Bundy and McLoughlin |
| Bundy and McLoughlin |



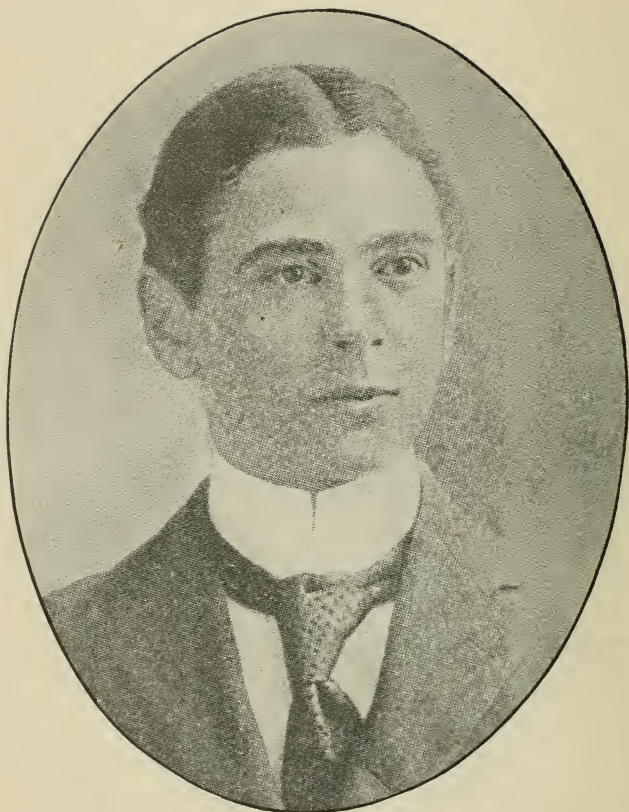
WILLIAM H. TAYLOR, JR.
Pacific States Champion
1889—90—91—92



THOMAS A. DRISCOLL
Pacific States Champion
1893



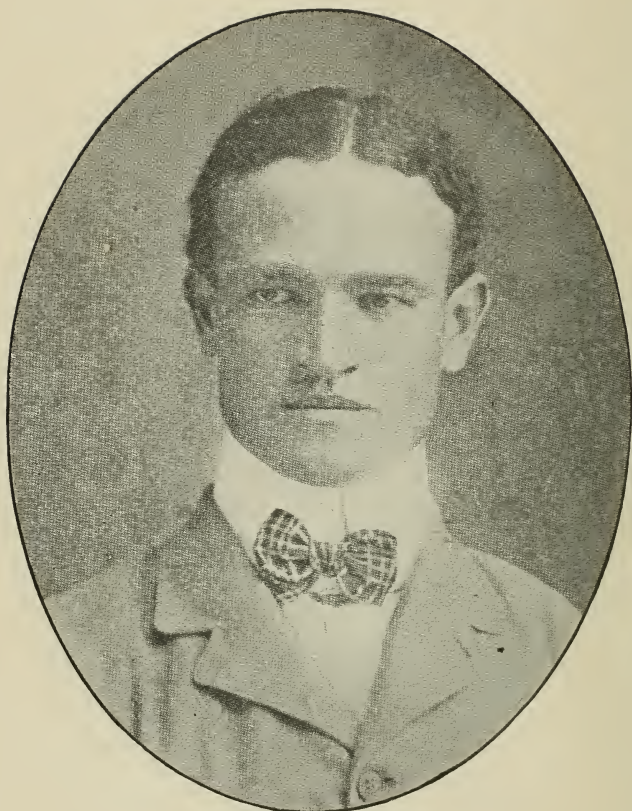
SAMUEL HARDY
Pacific States Champion
1894—1896



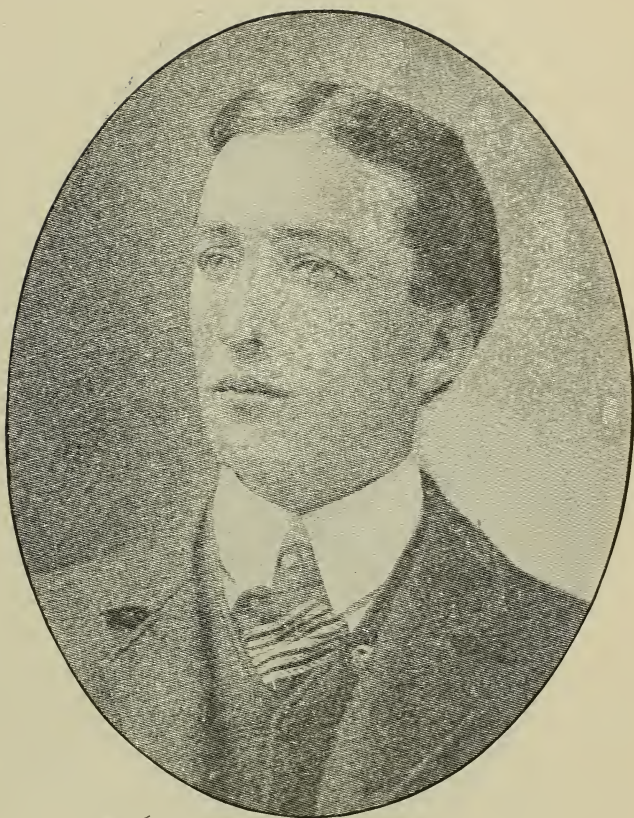
SUMNER HARDY
Pacific States Champion
1895—1898



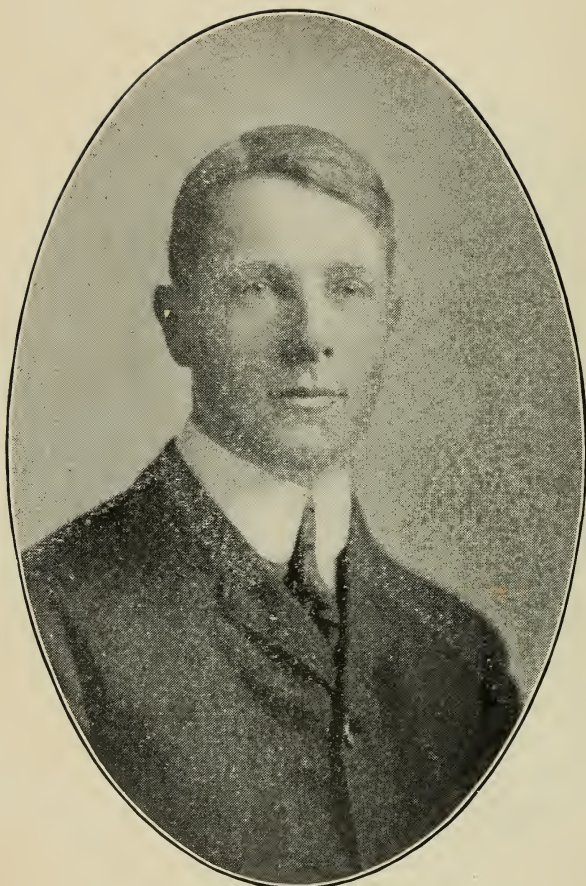
GEORGE F. WHITNEY
Pacific States Champion
1897—99—1900—01



LEWIS R. FREEMAN
Pacific States Champion
1902



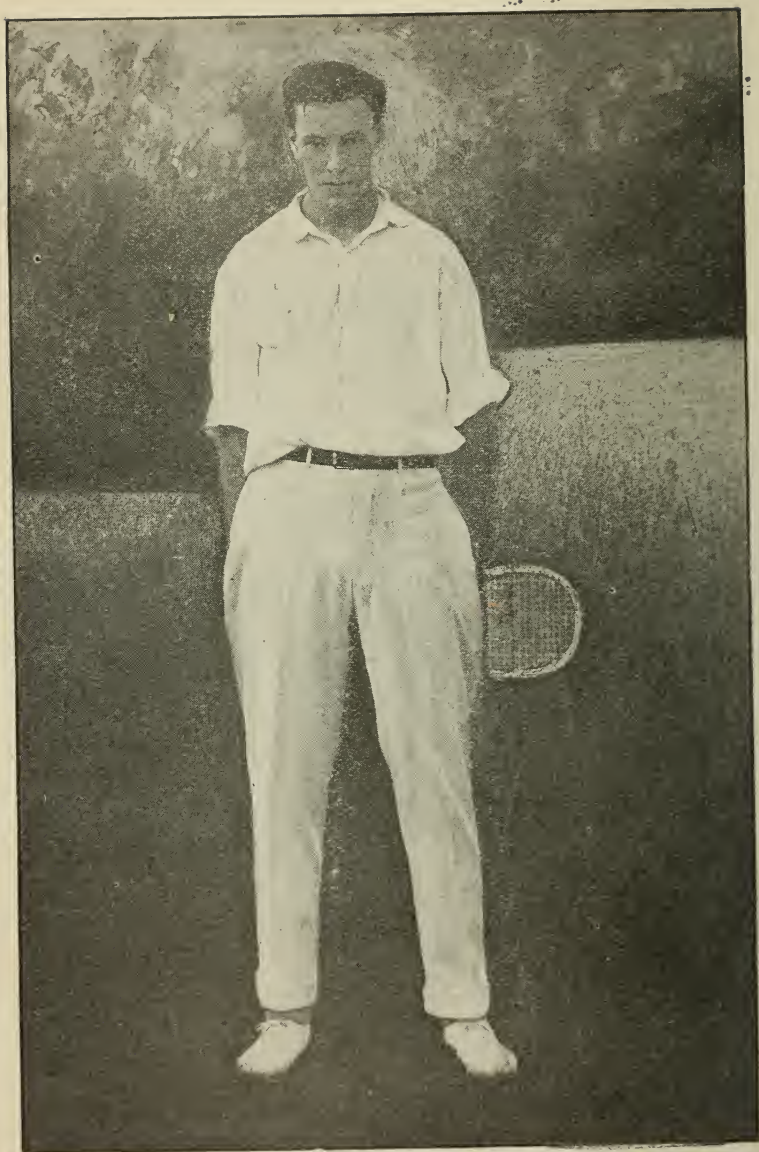
ALONZO E. BELL
Pacific States Champion
1903



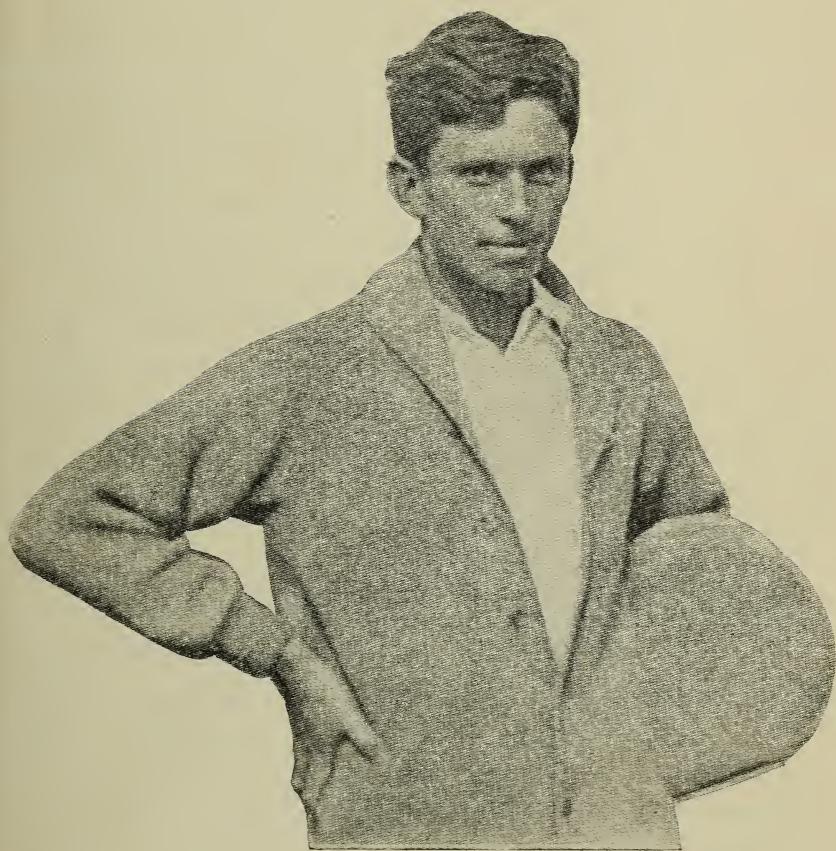
DRUMMOND MCGAVIN
Pacific States Champion
1904



GEORGE J. JANES
Pacific States Champion
1905—1909



MELVILLE H. LONG
Pacific States Champion
1906—1908



MAURICE E. McLOUGHLIN
Pacific States Champion
1907—1911—1912

The California Lady Players

Long before the Pacific States forced its way into the front rank among the men players of the country, her lady experts had begun to show the way to their Eastern sisters. As far back as 1899 Miss Marion Jones won the Women's National Singles championship and repeated her victory in 1902. Two years later, Miss May Sutton went east and swept away every important title before her, completely out-classing the other players of the fair sex. The next year, 1905, she crossed the Atlantic and won the English Championship from Miss Kate Douglas, thus becoming undisputedly the leading woman player of the world. She lost her title in 1906 to her great rival, but regained it in 1907, and although she has since limited her play to local or less important events up to last year, she still remains the "peerless player."

Two years after Miss Sutton's withdrawal from the major tournaments appeared from the northern section of the State (she hailed from Los Angeles) another star who for three years shone fully as refulgently and in turn made a clean sweep of all the important events. This was Miss Hazel Hotchkiss of San Francisco, who in 1909, 1910 and 1911 won the National Singles and Doubles titles with consummate ease, her only real rival during that time being yet another Californian, Miss Florence Sutton. When after Miss Hotchkiss' retirement from the lists it became necessary for the Pacific Coast to find another player capable of sustaining the laurels relinquished by her last representative, there appeared, this time from Los Angeles again, Miss Mary K. Browne, who

took up the shield and bore it unmarred by defeat, through to victory in the Women's Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

California, north and south in equal share, may well be proud of such a record and rejoice that in these past and present champions and her still younger champions in the making she has given to the country men and women of a world wide fame.

WOMEN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONS

- 1891—Mrs. Martin Chase, née Miss Bertha Couch.
 1892—Miss Ella Morgan.
 1893—Miss Bee Hooper.
 1894—Miss Bee Hooper.
 1895—No tournament played.
 1896— “ “ “
 1897— “ “ “
 1898—Mrs. Farquhar, née Miss Marion Jones
 1899—Mrs. Harold Doeg, née Miss Violet Sutton.
 1900—Miss Marion Hall.
 1901—Mrs. Thomas C. Bundy, née Miss May Sutton
 1902— “ “ “ “ “ “ “
 1903— “ “ “ “ “ “ “
 1904— “ “ “ “ “ “ “
 1905— “ “ “ “ “ “ “
 1906—Mrs. George W. Wightman, née Miss Hazel
 Hotchkiss.
 1907—Miss Florence Sutton.
 1908—Mrs. Thomas C. Bundy, née Miss May Sutton
 1909— “ “ “ “ “ “ “
 1910— “ “ “ “ “ “ “
 1911— “ “ “ “ “ “ “
 1912— “ “ “ “ “ “ “



MRS. MARTIN CHASE
née
MISS BERTHA COUCH
Pacific States Champion
1891



MRS. HAROLD DOEG
néé
MISS VIOLET SUTTON
Pacific States Champion
1899



MISS MARIAN HALL
Pacific States Champion
1900



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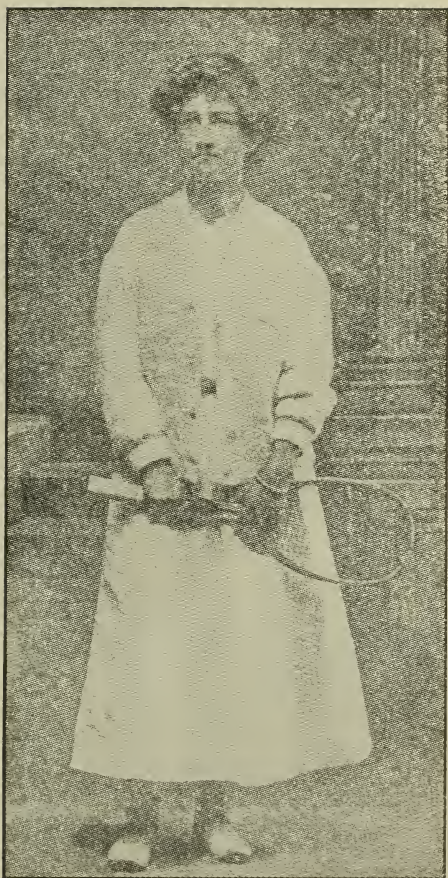
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1. MRS. GEO. W. WIGHTMAN née MISS HAZEL HOTCHKISS—1906

2. MRS. THOMAS C. BUNDY née MISS MAY SUTTON
1901—02—03—04—05—08—09—10—11—12

3. MRS. FARQUHAR née MISS MARIAN JONES—1898
Pacific States Champions



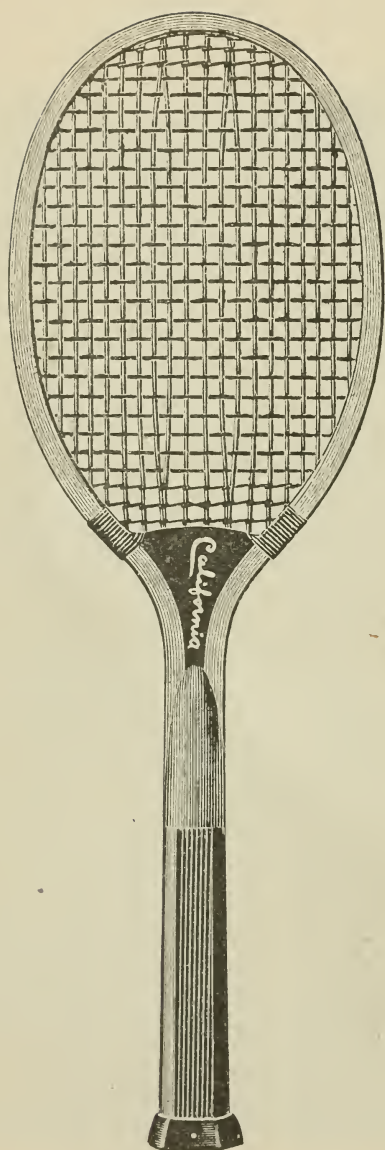
MISS FLORENCE SUTTON
Pacific States Champion
1907



MISS MARY K. BROWNE
National Lady Champion



GOLDEN GATE JUNIORS
The Coming Champions



CALIFORNIA

Our New Racket
Dedicated
To the California Tennis Players

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